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### INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [ ]

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COUNTRY China/USSR

DATE DISTR. 30 April 1952

SUBJECT 1. Soviet Trade Mission in Tientsin  
2. Administration of Chinese Communist Trade Agencies

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1

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[Redacted]

- On 30 January 1952, more than 50 Soviet trade representatives came by train from Mukden to Tientsin, where they stayed at the T'ai Lai (泰来) Hotel. SHA Ch'ien-li, vice-minister of the Chinese Communist Ministry of Trade, and five staff members joined the Soviets in Tientsin. For several days they held meetings with directors of trade agencies in that city.
- The trade mission, which had previously gone to Northeast China to handle commercial activities, was sent to Tientsin to strengthen Chinese Communist ties with the Soviet Bloc and aid in the procurement of military supplies through the USSR and Eastern Europe in order to counteract the Anglo-American blockade. The members of the trade mission have been assigned to trade agencies to assist in import and export and other trading operations.
- The administration of Chinese Communist Trade Agencies is as follows:

Under the Chinese Communist Government Administration Council is the Committee of Finance and Economics, which has under it the Ministry of Trade, the highest trade authority in Communist China. The Ministry of Trade is divided into three departments: domestic trade, foreign trade, and economic planning. The three departments function as follows:

- The domestic trade department controls state trading companies in various localities. It also controls the handling of general commodities, foodstuffs, cotton yarn, native products, coal, fur, hides, metalworks, minerals, industrial products, building materials, pharmaceuticals, and other items.

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- b. The foreign trade department controls import and export companies. All foreign trade must go through agency channels. Existing import and export companies are as follows:
- (1) Mukden - Northeast Import Company and Northeast Export Company.
  - (2) Tientsin - North China Import Company and North China Export Company.
  - (3) Shanghai - Central China Import Company and Central China Export Company.
  - (4) Canton - South China Import Company and South China Export Company.
- c. The department of economic planning controls a bureau which maintains trade planning offices in large metropolitan centers throughout the country.

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